

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, UR, US
SUBJECT: EXHIBIT GUIDE IN KIEV ASKED TO ACCEPT ANTI-SOVIET LETTER

1. WALTER LUPAN, UKRAINIAN-SPEAKING GUIDE AT THE ICA "AGRICULTURE USA" EXHIBIT IN KIEV, WAS ASKED TWICE TO ACCEPT AN ANTI-SOVIET LETTER FOR VOA BROADCASTING ON EXHIBIT'S OPENING DAY.
2. LUPAN, VOA UKRAINIAN SERVICE EMPLOYEE WORKING TEMPORARILY AS A UKRAINIAN-SPEAKING GUIDE AT THE EXHIBIT, WAS APPROACHED BY AN UNKNOWN, MEDAL AND RIBBON-WEARING SOVIET AT THE EXHIBIT'S OPENING CEREMONIES ON APRIL 21, WHO PROFFERED A LETTER FOR VOA BROADCASTING THAT ALLEGEDLY CRITICIZED THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE COMMUNISM IN THE USSR. LUPAN DID NOT ACCEPT THE LETTER.
3. THAT EVENING THE SAME SOVIET TURNED UP AT THE HARD CURRENCY BAR AT THE HOTEL DNIPRO AND SPOKE AGAIN WITH LUPAN, AND KAP OFFICER SAMBAIEW. THE SOVIET STATED HE

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SENT CRITICAL LETTERS TO MANY SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS AND HAD NEVER RECEIVED A REPLY. NOW HE WANTED TO PASS A LETTER CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET UNION TO THE AMERICANS SO THE QUESTIONS HE HAS RAISED COULD BE BROADCAST ON VOA AND OTHERWISE RECEIVE ATTENTION. LUPAN AND SAMBAIEW AGAIN DID NOT ACCEPT THE LETTER BUT SUGGESTED THE SOVIET MAIL OR BRING THE LETTER TO THE

ADVANCE PARTY OFFICES IF HE WANTED TO PASS IT TO THE AMERICANS.

4. AS THE SOVIET LEFT THE AMERICANS, HE STATED BITTERLY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE LOST THE WAR AGAINST THE GERMANS IF THEY HAD FOUGHT AGAINST THEM THE WAY THE AMERICANS NOW SEEM TO BE FIGHTING AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

5. COMMENT: THE SOVIET LETTER PASSER WAS ABOUT FIFTY AND SPOKE REASONABLY OF HIS CONCERNS. HIS RIBBONS AND MEDALS ALSO SEEMED TO SUGGEST A "REAL" CITIZEN'S APPROACH. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EXHIBIT OPENING CEREMONY WAS RESTRICTED TO INVITED GUESTS AND THE DNIPRO HOTEL IS GENERALLY OFF-LIMITS TO SOVIETS. THAT THE LETTER BEARER SOMEHOW GAINED ACCESS AND SOUGHT OUT LUPAN BOTH TIMES STRIKES US AS SUPICIOUS. KAP CHIEF PORTER AND EXHIBIT DIRECTOR CRAIG HAVE DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH LUPAN AND HE IS ON GUARD AGAINST FURTHER EVENTS OF THIS KIND. TOON

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